

Terms and definitions within the statute are outdated and do not accurately represent that which they purport to represent resulting in confusion and difficulty in applying the language of the statute with clarity. Restriction of veterans to DVA Rocky Hill Campus as a means of discipline was criticized in the General Assembly's PRI Committee in its December 2014 report and has been the source of complaints by veterans residing at the campus. The restriction on maintaining a motor vehicle on campus in first 90 days after admission is no longer necessary as adequate parking is available and use of motor vehicle is often necessary for veteran to work and search for housing in the community.



◇ **Origin of Proposal** ☒ **New Proposal** ☐ **Resubmission**

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (1) *What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?*
- (2) *Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?*
- (3) *Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?*
- (4) *What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?*

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PROPOSAL IMPACT

◇ **AGENCIES AFFECTED** *(please list for each affected agency)*

Agency Name: Department of Transportation

Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Pamela Sucato, Legislative Liaison, 860-594-3013

Date Contacted: November 4, 2015

Approve of Proposal ☒ **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **Talks Ongoing**

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments

Replacement of signs is a minimal cost and well within the agency's regular operating budget.

Will there need to be further negotiation? ☐ **YES** ☒ **NO**

◇ **FISCAL IMPACT** *(please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)*

Municipal *(please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)*

[Click here to enter text.](#)

State

Sections _____,

Federal

[Click here to enter text.](#)



Additional notes on fiscal impact

[Click here to enter text.](#)

◇ POLICY and PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS *(Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)*

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Sec 1. Section 3-65a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Duties of holder of abandoned property. (a) Within one hundred eighty days before a presumption of abandonment is to take effect in respect to property subject to section 3-60b or 3-60c and within one year before a presumption of abandonment is to take effect in respect to all other property subject to this part, and if the owner's claim is not barred by law, the holder shall notify the owner thereof, by first class mail directed to the owner's last-known address, that evidence of interest must be indicated as required by this part or such property will be transferred to the Treasurer and will be subject to escheat to the state.

(b) Within ninety days after the close of the calendar year in which property is presumed abandoned, the holder shall pay or deliver such property to the Treasurer and file, on forms which the Treasurer shall provide, a report of unclaimed property. Each report shall be verified and shall include: (1) The name, if known, and last-known address, if any, of each person appearing to be the owner of such property; (2) in case of unclaimed funds of an insurance company, the full name of the insured or annuitant and beneficiary and his or her last-known address appearing on the insurance company's records; (3) the nature and identifying number, if any, or description of the property and the amount appearing from the records to be due except that the holder shall report in the aggregate items having a value of less than fifty dollars; (4) the date when the property became payable, demandable or returnable and the date of the last transaction with the owner with respect to the property; (5) if the holder is a successor to other holders, or if the holder has changed the holder's name, all prior known



names and addresses of each holder of the property; and (6) such other information as the Treasurer may require.

(c) Verification, if made by a partnership, shall be executed by a partner; if made by an unincorporated association or private corporation, by an officer; and if made by a public corporation, by its chief fiscal officer.

(d) The Treasurer shall keep a permanent record of all reports submitted to the Treasurer.

(e) Except for claims paid under section 3-67a and except as provided in subsection (e) of section 3-70a, no owner shall be entitled to any interest, income or other increment which may accrue to property presumed abandoned from and after the date of payment or delivery to the Treasurer.

(f) The Treasurer may decline to receive any property the value of which is less than the cost of giving notice or holding sale, or may postpone taking possession until a sufficient sum accumulates.

(g) The Treasurer, or any officer or agency designated by the Treasurer, may examine any person on oath or affirmation, or the records of any person or any agent of the person including, but not limited to, a dividend disbursement agent or transfer agent of a business association, banking organization or insurance company that is the holder of property presumed abandoned to determine whether the person or agent has complied with this part. The Treasurer may conduct the examination even if the person or agent believes the person or agent is not in possession of any property that must be paid, delivered or reported under this part. The Treasurer may bring an action in a court of appropriate jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this part.

(h) Upon request of the holder, the Treasurer may approve the aggregate reporting on an estimated basis of two hundred or more items in each of one or more categories of unclaimed funds whenever it appears to the Treasurer that each of the items in any such category has a value of more than ten dollars but less than fifty dollars and the cost of reporting such items would be disproportionate to the amounts involved. Any holder electing to so report any such category in the aggregate shall assume responsibility for any valid claim presented within twenty years after the year in which the items in such category are presumed abandoned.

(i) A record of the issuance of a check, draft or similar instrument is prima facie evidence of the obligation represented by the check, draft or similar instrument. In claiming property from a holder who is also the issuer, the Treasurer's burden of proof as to the existence and amount of the property



and its abandonment is satisfied by showing issuance of the instrument and passage of the requisite period of abandonment. Defenses of payment, satisfaction, discharge and want of consideration are affirmative defenses that shall be established by the holder.

(j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the holder of personal property presumed abandoned pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a shall (1) sell such property and pay the proceeds arising from such sale, excluding any charges that may lawfully be withheld, to the Treasurer, unless such property consists of military medals, in which case such property shall not be sold, and (2) provide the Treasurer with records deemed appropriate by the Treasurer of property so presumed abandoned. A holder of such property may contract with a third party to store and sell such property and to pay the proceeds arising from such sale, excluding any charges that may be lawfully withheld, to the Treasurer, provided the third party holds a surety bond or other form of insurance coverage with respect to such activities. Any holder who sells such property and remits the excess proceeds to the Treasurer or who transmits such property to a bonded or insured third party for such purposes, shall not be responsible for any claims related to the sale or transmission of the property or proceeds to the Treasurer. If the Treasurer exempts any such property from being remitted or sold pursuant to this subsection, whether by regulations or guidelines, the holder of such property may dispose of such property in any manner such holder deems appropriate and such holder shall not be responsible for any claims related to the disposition of such property or any claims to the property itself. For purposes of this subsection, charges that may lawfully be withheld include costs of storage, appraisal, advertising and sales commissions as well as lawful charges owing under the contract governing the safe deposit box rental.

(k) In the event military medals are presumed abandoned pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 3-57a, a banking or financial organization shall transmit such medals to the Department of Veterans['] Affairs in accordance with procedures established by the Treasurer. The Treasurer and Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs shall enter into a memorandum of understanding concerning the handling of such medals and the Department of Veterans['] Affairs shall hold such medals in custody pursuant to such memorandum. The Treasurer may make any information obtained pursuant to this section, including any photograph or other visual depiction of a military medal but excluding Social



Security numbers, available to the public to facilitate the identification of the original owner of such medal or such owner's heirs or beneficiaries.

Sec 2. Section 27-102l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Department of Veterans['] Affairs. Veterans['] Residential Services [Home] to be within department. [Veterans'] Office of advocacy and assistance [unit]. Staff. Powers and duties. Regulations. (a) There shall be a Department of Veterans['] Affairs. [The] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home] shall be within the department and shall be located in Rocky Hill. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs, who shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with the powers and duties prescribed therein.

(b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer an [veterans'] Office of Advocacy and Assistance [advocacy and assistance unit] for the aid and benefit of veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members. Such unit shall conduct an annual training course for any city or town employee designated a veterans' service contact person pursuant to subsection (b) of section 27-135. The unit shall have a staff of not less than eight men and women, including six service officers, and clerical personnel. The unit head and the service officers shall be veterans, as defined in section 27-103, or veterans who were awarded the armed forces expeditionary medal for service by the armed forces. At least one of the service officers shall be a woman having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans, who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective upon the next opening of a service officer position occurring on or after July 1, 2010, at least two of the service officers shall be individuals having bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish, within existing authorized positions. Each service officer shall successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits within one year of commencement of employment and shall be assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the state.

(c) In addition to the powers and duties prescribed under section 4-8, the commissioner shall have the following powers and duties:



(1) To prepare studies and collect information concerning facilities and services available to members of the armed forces, veterans, their spouses or eligible dependents, including facilities and services for veterans who may have been exposed to a Vietnam herbicide during their periods of military service;

(2) To conduct interviews in the nursing homes or hospitals throughout the state to determine the number of veterans admitted and ascertaining which benefits such veterans are currently receiving and are entitled to receive;

(3) To cooperate with service agencies and organizations throughout the state in disseminating and furnishing counsel and assistance of benefit to residents of this state who are or have been members of the armed forces, their spouses or eligible dependents, which will indicate the availability of: (A) Educational training and retraining facilities; (B) health, medical, rehabilitation and housing services and facilities; (C) employment and reemployment services; (D) provisions of federal, state and local laws affording financial rights, privileges and benefits; and (E) other matters of similar nature;

(4) To assist veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members in the preparation, presentation, proof and establishment of such claims, privileges, rights and other benefits accruing to them under federal, state and local laws;

(5) To cooperate with all national, state and local governmental and private agencies securing or offering services or any benefits to veterans, their spouses or dependents;

(6) To develop and prepare a long-range plan and mission statement for [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home] and the [veterans'] Office of Advocacy and Assistance [advocacy and assistance unit]; and

(7) To review all appeals made by veterans, their spouses or eligible dependents or family members and render the final decision thereon regarding the denial of admission to any program or the refusal to render any service or benefit which is administered by the Department of Veterans['] Affairs, the discharge or transfer from any such program or any disciplinary action taken while participating in any such program.

(d) The commissioner shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, and enforce, such regulations and procedures for the operation, administration and management of the department and all programs and services under the jurisdiction of the department, including, but not limited to,



procedures relating to admission and discharge or transfer of veterans in [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home], a per diem fee schedule for programs, services and benefits provided by the Veterans['] Residential Services [Home], and the participation of eligible family members in programs or services provided by [the home] Veterans Residential Services.

Sec 3. Section 27-102n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Board of Trustees for the Department of Veterans['] Affairs. Members. Duties. Annual report (a)

There shall be a Board of Trustees for the Department of Veterans['] Affairs. On and after July 1, 2015, the board shall be comprised of eighteen voting members who by education or experience shall be qualified in health care, business management, social services or law and who shall have a demonstrated interest in the concerns of veterans. A majority of the members of the board shall be veterans, including veterans of armed conflicts authorized by the President of the United States. The members shall include (1) two residents of [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home], one of whom shall be the president of [the home's] Veterans Residential Services veterans['] council and one of whom shall be the president of the Department of Veterans Affairs, [home's] health care facility council, and (2) sixteen members appointed in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Sixteen members shall be appointed as follows: (1) Ten by the Governor, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and (2) one each by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, whose terms shall be coterminous with the term of the appointing authority. Any vacancy on the board shall be filled by the appointing authority in the same manner as the original appointment, for the unexpired portion of the term. Members shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties. They shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses in the performance of their duties.

(c) The Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as a nonvoting, ex-officio member of the board and shall attend the meetings of the board.



(d) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among the membership of the board. The board shall meet at least quarterly and upon the call of the commissioner, the chairperson or a majority of the board members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. On and after January 1, 2016, any board member, except the Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs, absent from (1) three consecutive meetings of the board, or (2) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the board, effective immediately.

(e) The board shall advise and assist the commissioner in the operation of [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home], the [veterans'] Office of Advocacy and Assistance [advocacy and assistance unit], the administration, expansion or modification of existing programs and services of the department and the development of new programs and services.

(f) The board shall (1) review and approve any regulations prior to adoption by the commissioner concerning: (A) Procedures relating to admission and discharge or transfer of veterans in [the home] Residential Services; (B) a per diem fee schedule for programs, services and benefits provided therein; and (C) the participation of eligible family members in programs or services provided by [the home] Residential Services, and (2) review and comment on (A) the budget for the Department of Veterans['] Affairs; and (B) major policies relating to [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home].

(g) The Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs shall provide the board with information necessary for the board to monitor the performance of the Department of Veterans['] Affairs. Such information shall be provided to the board in a timely manner and shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the department's budget for each fiscal year; (2) quarterly reports on the department's actual revenue and expenditures for the preceding four months; (3) quarterly reports on the staffing levels of [at the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home], including direct care staffing at the health care facility within [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home] and case manager to resident ratios, for the preceding four months; (4) facilities and fleet management, including current projects and planned projects; (5) quarterly summaries of applications for admission to, departures from and occupancy rates in Residential Services [at the home] for the preceding four months; (6) program performance, including programs for employment assistance and assistance to veteran residents interested in securing housing outside of [the] Veterans['] Residential Services [Home]; (7) results of annual resident satisfaction surveys conducted by the department; (8) quarterly reports summarizing incident rates at the health



care facility within the Department of Veterans['] Affairs, [Veterans' Home] for the preceding four months; (9) reports on the number of rules violations against residents in Residential Services and the health care facility [of the Veterans' Home] and penalties issued therefor; (10) performance reports on programs operated by the Office of Advocacy and Assistance within the Department of Veterans['] Affairs; (11) annual customer satisfaction reports from veterans who request assistance from such office; (12) caseload figures for veterans' service officers; (13) results of any federal and state inspections; [and] (14) quarterly reports summarizing by type, frequency and resolution, concerns raised by residents in Residential Services and the health care facility [of the Veterans' Home], petitions and complaints filed by residents of [the] Veterans['] Residential Services and the health care facility [Home] and relatives or authorized representatives of such residents received by the commissioner under subsection (d) of section 27-102l-54 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for the four preceding months and copies of any such petitions and complaints[.]; and (15) the current by-laws, roster of Officers and minutes of meetings for the previous quarter of the Veterans Residential Services veterans council.

(h) All board meeting notices, minutes and reports bearing a date of January 1, 2012, or later shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the department's Internet web site. Minutes from board meetings held on or after the effective date of this section shall be posted to such Internet web site not later than seven days after each such meeting is held. If applicable, minutes shall contain a statement that such minutes are considered draft minutes until approved by the board.

(i) Not later than February fifteenth of each year, the board shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on its activities during the previous calendar year, progress in fulfilling its mission based on programmatic outcomes and recommendations, if any, for improving the delivery of services to veterans and the addition of new programs.

Sec 4. Section 27-102o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).



Department authorized to receive and expend funds for Women in Military Service for America Memorial. The Department of Veterans[] Affairs may, subject to any limitations otherwise imposed by law, receive and accept on behalf of the state any funds that may be offered or that may become available from federal grants or appropriations, private gifts, donations or bequests, or any other source and may expend such funds for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part and on behalf of the state, the construction of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Sec 5. Section 27-102p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Annual report of veterans' benefit. (a) Not later than July 15, 2007, and annually thereafter, each state agency or municipality that provides benefits to veterans, as defined in section 27-103, shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Veterans[] Affairs that includes a description of each type of benefit provided to veterans, the value of such benefit and the number of veterans to whom such benefit was provided, for the twelve-month period ending on June thirtieth of the same year. The commissioner shall compile the data in such report.

(b) Not later than August 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Veterans[] Affairs shall submit a report of the data compiled pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, for the twelve-month period ending on June thirtieth of the same year, to the Military Department and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall specify the total number of veterans receiving benefits and the value of such benefits by category of benefit and in total for such period.

Sec 6. Section 27-102q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Benefits for veterans discharged on basis of sexual orientation. (a) For purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person discharged or released from active service in the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, regardless of his or her discharge classification.



(b) If the federal government acts to reinstate eligibility for benefits to discharged veterans, regardless of their discharge classification, who have been or otherwise would be denied such benefits solely on the basis of sexual orientation pursuant to any current or former federal policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving in the armed forces, the state shall reinstate eligibility for any state benefits such veterans were or otherwise would have been denied due to such federal policy.

(c) To the extent practicable, the Department of Veterans[] Affairs shall (1) provide information on its Internet web site regarding legal services organizations that assist veterans in military discharge upgrades, including, but not limited to, links to such organizations' Internet web sites, and (2) provide printed resources concerning methods for obtaining military discharge upgrades, which are created by such legal services organizations, to veterans at the department's offices and facilities and disseminate such resources to local veterans' advisory committees, as described in section 27-135.

Sec 7. Section 27-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Definitions. (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504,¹ and except as otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code;² (2) "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces; (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative days except, if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service in time of war" means service for the entire period of war, unless separated from service earlier because of a service-connected disability rated by the Veterans' Administration, during a period of war; and (4) "period of war" has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as amended, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and "period of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a combat support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or September 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15, 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf, July 24, 1987, to August 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990, and shall include service during such periods with the armed forces of any government associated with the United States.



(b) As used in this part, ["home"] Veterans Residential Services means the Veterans['] residential facility [Home] consisting of temporary and other supported residential services for qualifying veterans maintained by the [state] Department of Veterans Affairs at Rocky Hill; "hospital" means any incorporated hospital or tuberculosis sanatorium in the state and any state chronic disease hospital, or hospital for persons with mental illness, "health care facility" means the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital at Rocky Hill; "veteran" means any veteran who served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, and who is a resident of this state, provided, if he or she was not a resident or resident alien of this state at the time of enlistment or induction into the armed forces, he or she shall have resided continuously in this state for at least two years; "eligible dependent" means any parent, wife or husband, or child of a veteran who has no adequate means of support; and "eligible family member" means any parent, brother or sister, wife or husband, or child or children under eighteen years of age, of any veteran whose cooperation in the program is integral to the treatment of the veteran.

Sec 8. Section 27-106 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Duties of commissioner re Veterans['] Residential Service and Patients in the Health Care Facility Home. Expenditures from institutional general welfare fund regulated. (a) The commissioner shall adopt and enforce such rules as may be necessary to ensure order, enforce discipline and preserve the health and ensure the comfort of the residents in Veterans Residential Services and patients in the health care facility [the Veterans' Home], and shall discipline or dismiss any officer or resident of [the] Veterans Residential Services and patients in the health care facility [home] who disobeys or infringes upon such rules. The commissioner shall appoint, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, such officers and employees as are necessary for the administration of the affairs of Veterans Residential Services and patients in the health care facility [the home], shall prescribe the relative rank, if any, of such officers and employees, and shall commission each such officer, who shall wear such uniform, if any, as is prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) The chief fiscal officer shall submit a semiannual plain language report to each resident of the Veterans Residential Services and patients in the health care facility [Veterans' Home] detailing the manner in which the institutional general welfare fund was used over the previous six months to



directly benefit veterans or Veterans Residential Services and patients in the health care facility [the Veterans' Home]. Such report shall include a prominently displayed statement encouraging residents to submit suggestions for projects to be funded by the institutional general welfare fund and shall include a form for such submissions.

(c) The chief fiscal officer shall submit an itemized list of expenditures made from the institutional general welfare fund to the commissioner at intervals not greater than two months. Such list shall include all such expenditures made during the two-month period preceding its submission. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-56, the commissioner shall prescribe procedures to limit and specify the uses for which expenditures may be made from the institutional general welfare fund so that only expenditures which, in the opinion of the commissioner and the board of trustees for the department appointed pursuant to section 27-102n, directly benefit veterans or Veterans Residential Services and patients in the health care facility [the Veterans' Home] are permitted.

(d) In addition to the estimate of expenditure requirements required under section 4-77, the commissioner shall submit an accounting of all planned expenditures for the next fiscal year from the institutional general welfare fund to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies at the time such estimate is submitted.

Sec 9. Section 27-106a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Facility licensure applications administered by Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs.

Exemptions. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, the Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs, on behalf of any facility operated by the commissioner and established by the state for the care of veterans, may apply to the Department of Public Health for: (1) A license for a chronic and convalescent nursing home, as defined in section 19a-521; (2) a license for a rest home with nursing supervision, as defined in section 19a-521; or (3) a license for an assisted living services agency, as defined in section 19a-490.



- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, in the event the commissioner applies for a license under subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Veterans Affairs [Veterans' Home] may retain such [home's] chronic disease hospital license.
- (c) The Department of Public Health shall process an application for any license submitted under subsection (a) of this section in an expedited manner.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 319y and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, any Department of Veterans Affairs [Veterans' Home] project undertaken pursuant to a license application as provided in subsection (a) of this section shall not be subject to certificate of need application and approval requirements applicable to nursing home services, including beds, additions and capital expenditures.
- (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, the Department of Veterans Affairs [Veterans' Home] project undertaken pursuant to a license application as provided in subsection (a) of this section shall be exempt from the requirements for approval of a request or application provided for in section 19a-638.

Sec 10. Section 27-107 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

State police duty. Regulation of traffic at Veterans' Home. (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall assign one or more state policemen for duty at the Department of Veterans Affairs at Rocky Hill [Veterans' Home] as may be requested by the commissioner.

(b) The Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs, subject to the approval of the Office of the State Traffic Administration, may: (1) Prohibit, limit, restrict or regulate the parking of vehicles; (2) determine speed limits; (3) install stop signs; (4) restrict roads or portions thereof to one-way traffic; (5) designate the location of crosswalks on any portion of any road or highway upon the grounds of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Rocky Hill [Veterans' Home]; and (6) erect and maintain signs designating such prohibitions or restrictions. Security officers or institutional patrolmen appointed to act as state policemen under the provisions of section 29-18 may arrest or issue a summons for violation of such restrictions or prohibitions. Any person who fails to comply with any such prohibition or restriction shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars, and the court or traffic or parking authority having



jurisdiction of traffic or parking violations in the town of Rocky Hill shall have jurisdiction over violations of this section.

(c) Notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary no Department of Veterans Affairs veteran resident or patient shall be restricted from: (1) leaving the Rocky Hill campus or section thereof unless such prohibition is necessary to protect the health, welfare or safety of said veteran resident or patient; or (2) maintaining one personal non-commercial motor vehicle at the Rocky Hill Campus upon admission subject to compliance with all applicable State motor vehicle registration and insurance statutes and regulations.

Sec 11. Section 27-108 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Admission to Veterans['] Residential Services [Home] or hospital. Discharge. Transfer. Payment.

(a) Any veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who meets active military, naval or air service requirements, as described in 38 USC 101, may apply for admission to Veterans Residential Services or the Health Care Facility for admission [the home]; and any such veteran who has no adequate means of support, and who, from disease, wounds or accident, needs medical or surgical care and treatment or who has become mentally ill, may be admitted to any hospital and receive necessary food, clothing, care and treatment therein, at the expense of the state, unless other funds or means of payment are available. Whenever a person is admitted to a hospital, such person shall be asked if he or she is a veteran. Before a hospital submits a bill for services pursuant to this section, such hospital shall take sufficient steps to determine that no other funds or means of payment are available to cover the cost of services rendered to the veteran. The Department of Veterans['] Affairs shall make available to hospitals a list of payment options and benefits available to cover hospital costs of veterans.

(b) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this state and is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, may apply for admission to the home.

(c) Any such veteran desiring care or treatment under the provisions of this chapter shall make application under oath to the Commissioner of Veterans['] Affairs; but, if, by reason of his or her



physical condition, he or she is unable to make such application, some other veteran may make such application in his or her behalf. Said commissioner, or his or her designee, shall have sole power to determine whether such veteran is entitled to admission to the home or to a hospital, and such veteran, if admitted, may, upon application to the commissioner, receive transportation at the expense of the state from his or her place of residence to the home or such hospital. No veteran so admitted shall be discharged from the home except upon the approval of the commissioner or his or her designee. The commissioner shall have sole power to remove any veteran whose care and treatment is paid for by the state from any hospital to another and shall appoint such agents as are necessary to see that veterans admitted to hospitals are receiving necessary food, clothing, care and treatment.

(d) Such veterans who are able to pay in whole or in part for such program or services, as determined by the applicable fee schedule adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 27-102*l*, shall receive a monthly bill for such services rendered.

(e) In the event that a bill of a veteran remains unpaid and past due, the chief fiscal officer, with the approval of the commissioner, shall require the veteran to assign his or her right to receive payment of income, from whatever source, to the commissioner until (1) such account is made current, and (2) the veteran demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner a reasonable likelihood of more prudent financial management for the future. Any veteran shall be provided an opportunity for a hearing when an order of assignment is issued.

(f) Payment of amounts determined by the commissioner as provided by subsection (c) of this section shall be deposited in the institutional general welfare fund of the Department of Veterans Affairs [Veterans' Home] established in accordance with sections 4-56 to 4-58, inclusive, and shall be available for expenditure from said fund for the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs [Veterans' Home] in accordance with procedures prescribed by the commissioner and the Comptroller.

(g) In the event that a veteran dies, still owing money for services rendered, the commissioner, with the aid of the Attorney General's office, may submit a claim against such veteran's estate and any amounts collected shall be deposited in the institutional general welfare fund in accordance with section 4-56.

Sec 12. Section 27-109a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).



Veterans' health registry. Disclosure of registry information. (a) The Department of Veterans[] Affairs may establish and maintain, within available resources, a registry of data on members of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who have completed a period of active service. The department may develop surveys for members or their health care providers to voluntarily provide data during or after such active service. The surveys and data shall be collected and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191) (HIPAA), as amended from time to time, or regulations adopted thereunder.

(b) The surveys and data shall be related to members' illnesses and potential correlations to environmental hazards, including, but not limited to, vaccinations, infections, chemicals, pesticides, microwaves, depleted uranium, pyridostigmine bromide, and chemical and biological warfare agents. Within available resources, the department may use the data in the registry to (1) study the potential short-term and long-term effects of such hazards on such members, and (2) inform, customize and coordinate the provision of health care services to such members.

(c) No individually identifiable health information may be released by the department without the consent of the member to whom the information pertains in accordance with the requirements of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191) (HIPAA), as amended from time to time, or regulations adopted thereunder.

(d) The surveys and data in the registry shall be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, except that no individually identifiable health information may be disclosed.

Sec 13. Section 27-115b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Eligible family members to participate in programs administered by department. Eligible family members may participate in a program or service administered by the Department of Veterans[] Affairs, in accordance with the regulations and procedures adopted for the operation, administration and management of such program or service.



Sec 14. Section 27-128 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (effective July 1, 2016).

Governor authorized to transfer moneys between veterans' funds. The Governor may transfer, from time to time, as may be found expedient, funds existing in the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund and funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs [Veterans' Home] from one of said funds to the other of said funds.

(a) Any city or town, either separately or with one or more other cities and towns, may, by ordinance, establish a local veterans' advisory committee which shall have the responsibility of carrying out locally the duties and purposes of this section and, within their charter powers and as otherwise provided by law, may make available to such local committees the necessary funds to carry out their duties and responsibilities. The committee may (1) act as the coordinating agency in all matters concerning veterans and their dependents, coordinating the activities of public and private facilities concerned with veterans' reemployment, education, rehabilitation and adjustment to peacetime living; (2) cooperate with all national, state and local governmental and private agencies in securing services and benefits to which a veteran or his dependents may be entitled; (3) use the services and facilities of the veterans organizations so far as possible to carry out the purposes of this section; and (4) encourage and coordinate vocational training services for veterans.

(b) Any city or town that (1) has not established its own local veterans' advisory committee separate from one or more other cities or towns pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2) does not otherwise provide funding for a veterans' service officer shall designate a city or town employee to serve as a veterans' service contact person in such city or town. Any city or town employee designated as a veterans' service contact person shall carry out the duties described in subsection (a) of this section and may complete an annual training course conducted by the veterans' advocacy and assistance unit, as described in subsection (b) of section 27-102I.